

## CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

- 5           1.       A web comprising superabsorbent material and fibers wherein:

                  at least some of the fibers are coated onto the superabsorbent material prior to formation of the web,

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                  the web is formed while the superabsorbent material contains a liquid that it has absorbed, and

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                  at least some of the liquid absorbed in the superabsorbent material is removed after formation of the web.

2.       An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 1.

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3.       The web according to Claim 1, wherein removing the liquid comprises causing or allowing evaporation of the liquid.

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4.       The web according to Claim 3, wherein the formed web further has been exposed to conditions that accelerate the evaporation of the liquid.

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5.       The web according to Claim 4, wherein the conditions that accelerate the evaporation of the liquid comprise an elevated temperature.

6.       The web according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid is selected from solutions and mixtures that comprise water.

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7.       The web according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises distilled water.

8.       The web according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of absorbed liquid present in the superabsorbent material at the time of

web formation is at least about 0.5 grams of the liquid per gram of superabsorbent material.

9. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 8.

10. The web according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers comprise wood pulp fibers.

11. The web according to Claim 1, wherein the fibers have been coated onto the superabsorbent material by combining the fibers and superabsorbent material in the presence of air agitation.

12. The web according to Claim 1, wherein the web is formed by depositing the coated superabsorbent material onto a surface.

13. The web according to Claim 1, wherein the web comprises one or more fibers, particles, materials or combinations thereof in addition to the fiber and the superabsorbent material.

14. The web according to Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles.

15. The web according to Claim 14, wherein at least some of the particles comprise an outer layer comprising at least one type of superabsorbent material and an inner core comprising at least one other type of superabsorbent material that differs from the superabsorbent material in the outer layer.

16. The web according to Claim 14, wherein at least some of the particles are comprised of SAM that exhibits a gradual trend of decrease in crosslinking proceeding from the outer surface of the particle to the center of the particle.

17. A web comprising fibers and superabsorbent material, wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 60% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 9% when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

18. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 17.

5 19. The web of Claim 17, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 5% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

10 *Sub A3* 20. A web comprising fibers and suberabsorbent material, wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 70% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 15% when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

21. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 20.

15 22. The web of Claim 20, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 10% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

23. The web of Claim 20, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 5% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

20 *Sub A4* 24. A web comprising fibers and suberabsorbent material, wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 80% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 17% when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

25 25. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 24.

26. The web of Claim 24, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 10% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

30 27. The web of Claim 24, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 5% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

35 *Sub A5* 28. A web comprising fibers and suberabsorbent material, wherein the web comprises a superabsorbent material content of at least about 90% by dry weight and the web experiences a web loss of less than about 58% when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

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29. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 28.

30. The web of Claim 28, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 50% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

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31. The web of Claim 28, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 35% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

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32. The web of Claim 28, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 20% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

33. The web of Claim 28, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 10% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

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34. The web of Claim 28, wherein the web experiences a web loss of about 5% or less when subjected to a Shakeout Test.

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35. A web comprising fibers and superabsorbent material wherein the web loss experienced by the web when subjected to a Shakeout Test is not a monotone nondecreasing function of the concentration of superabsorbent material in the web.

36. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 35.

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37. A web comprising fibers and superabsorbent material wherein the web loss experienced by the web when subjected to a Shakeout Test is a monotone nonincreasing function of the concentration of superabsorbent material in the web.

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38. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 37.

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39. A web comprising fibers and at least one superabsorbent material at least partially coated with the fibers, wherein:

individual bodies of the superabsorbent material have bonds with each other, with fibers that are coated upon other bodies

of the superabsorbent material, or with a combination thereof, and

the superabsorbent material comprises a composition that forms such bonds upon removal of a liquid contained in the superabsorbent material.

40. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 39.

41. The web of Claim 39, wherein the removal of the liquid contained in the superabsorbent material comprises evaporation of the liquid.

42. The web according to Claim 41, wherein the evaporation comprises exposing the web to conditions that accelerate the evaporation of the liquid.

43. The web according to Claim 42, wherein the conditions that accelerate the evaporation of the liquid comprise an elevated temperature.

44. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the liquid is selected from solutions and mixtures that comprise water.

45. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the liquid comprises distilled water.

46. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the bonds can form upon removal from the superabsorbent material of at least about 0.5 grams of the liquid per gram of superabsorbent material.

Sub 97) 47. An absorbent article comprising the web of Claim 46.

48. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the fibers comprise wood pulp fibers.

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49. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the fibers have been coated onto the superabsorbent material by combining the fibers and superabsorbent material in the presence of air agitation.

5 50. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the web is formed by depositing the coated superabsorbent material onto a surface.

10 51. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the web comprises one or more fibers, particles, materials or combinations thereof in addition to the fiber and the superabsorbent material.

15 52. The web according to Claim 39, wherein the superabsorbent material comprises particles.

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*a 8* 53. The web according to Claim 52, wherein at least some of the particles comprise an outer layer comprising at least one type of superabsorbent material and an inner core comprising at least one other type of superabsorbent material that differs from the superabsorbent material in the outer layer.

25 54. The web according to Claim 52, wherein at least some of the particles are comprised of SAM that exhibits a gradual trend of decrease in crosslinking proceeding from the outer surface of the particle to the center of the particle.

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